



Melissa Hoag Sherman

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business Litigation
General Business and Complex
Commercial Litigation

INDUSTRIES

Construction

EDUCATION

University of Kansas School of
Law, J.D., 2001

University of Kansas, B.A., *with
highest distinction*, 1998

CLERKSHIP(s)

Law clerk for the Honorable
Steve Leben, who now sits on the
Kansas Court of Appeals

Ms. Sherman represents clients in a wide range of litigation matters in state and federal court, from complex business disputes to professional liability actions. She has particular expertise in condemnation law, and has represented both condemning authorities and landowners in all phases of the condemnation process. Ms. Sherman has significant trial and appellate experience, and has also assisted clients with alternative dispute resolution.

Ms. Sherman's representative experience includes:

- First-chaired a highly-contested condemnation matter brought by a local municipality and a state department of transportation in which the jury awarded \$1 million in damages, plus statutory interest, where the pre-appeal award was \$530,000.
- Served as second chair and helped to obtain a complete defense verdict in favor of an ambulance service sued for wrongful death in a lengthy and complex jury trial, where the plaintiffs had demanded more than \$4.5 million in damages and rejected an offer of \$500,000 during the trial.
- Second-chaired a trial to the Court in which a \$500,000 judgment was entered in favor of the client and later affirmed by the Kansas Supreme Court in a condemnation matter involving the apportionment of an appraisers' award pursuant to a commercial lease.
- Was integral in obtaining and defending the complete grant of summary judgment in favor of the clients in a case where the plaintiff alleged discriminatory treatment and sought \$19 million in damages, which was later affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and denied review by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Obtained an appraisers' award for a commercial client that was \$415,000 above what was initially offered by the condemning authority.

Court Memberships

- Kansas
- Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Honors

- Selected for Missouri/Kansas *Super Lawyers* “Rising Stars,” 2009-2011
- Order of the Coif
- Kansas Law Review, August 2000-May 2001
- National Moot Court Competition, 2000
- Phi Beta Kappa
- University Scholar

Professional Affiliations

- The Earl E. O’Connor American Inn of Court, 2010-2011 Achieving Excellence Committee Leader
- Defense Research Institute
- Kansas Association of Defense Counsel
- Kansas Bar Association
- The Missouri Bar
- The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
- Johnson County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Leadership Lenexa 2004